Implementation of 15 point Programme

1302. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry has sent a letter to all District Magistrates in the country regarding implementation of Prime Minister's 15 Point Programme for the Welfare of Minorities, if so, when was it written and what are the main contents and instructions imbibed in the letter;

(b) whether the District Magistrates have responded to this letter and any information or clarification has been sought by them, if so, the details thereof and whether some State Governments have resisted the Ministry's direct communication to the District Magistrates; and

(c) whether suitable monitoring machinery to assess the progress of implimentation of this programme has been evolved at the District, State and Central level, if so, the details thereof and whether satisfactory results have been achieved?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) Attention is invited to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 998 on the 18th November, 1988. Adequate number of copies of a circular letter intended for the district Magistrates were sent in September, 1988 to the Chief Secretaries of the respective State Govts./U.T. Administrations for appropriate action.

(b) No such information is available as the District Magistrates are required to report to their respective State Headquarters. No protest has been received from any of the State Government nor any clarification on the points contained in this letter sought for. There were some requests for additional copies of the folder containing 15-Point Programme and the same have been complied with.

(c) Ministry of Welfare monitores the progress of implementation of the Programme at the Central level. The State Governments have been advised to hold quarterly review meetings at the Chief Minister/Chief Secretary level and monthly review meetings at District Magistrate level. Attention in this connection is also invited to reply given to Unstarred Question No. 404 on the 24th February, 1989.

Deletion of the Clause of Pre-paid Ticket Advice (PTA) from the Emigration Laws

1303. SHRI RAOOF VALIULLAH: SHRI KAMAL MORARKA:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to delete the clause of pre-paid ticket advice (PTA) from the emigration laws and whether the Recruit Agents Association of India has also urged the waiver of the mandatory presentation of proof of PTA from prospective emigrants;

(b) how far has it affected the flow of manpower from India to the Gulf countries;

(c) whether it is a fact that thousands of job-seekers are being denied emigration clearance even after their visas have been endorsed just because they do not possess return tickets;

(d) whether India stand to loose over Rs.3000 crores in Foreign exchange annually on account of less stringent labour laws in other Asian countries which export their surplus manpower; if so, whether government would take necessary action to rectify the situation;

(e) whether it is a fact that major labour contracts in the Middle East are being lost by India due to insistence on prepaid travel advice; and

(f) if so, what action has been initiated to remedy the situation?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (f) The Emigration Act, 1983 and Rules framed thereunder provide that 'to and fro air passage at the employer's cost' must be included in every contract for employment of an emigrant worker. The provision came into force with effect from 4.2.1987. Some representations have been received from the Recruiting Agents' Association in this regard. Emigration clearance was given to 1.70 lakh workers during 1988 as against 1.25 lakh workers during 1987. The provision is meant to protect the workers. The provisions in Asian countries like Pakistan, Bangladesh, Philippines, etc. also provide for to and fro passage at the employer's cost.

Schemes for Aged Persons in the States

1304. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the States and also of the schemes (alongwith their outlines) being implemented for aged persons;

(b) the names and addresses of the homes for aged persons being run in various States and also of the voluntary organisations to whom Government is providing financial assistance for various types of such welfare activities; and

(c) under all the above schemes, what is the State-wise average expenditure on an aged person per month, and is it considered sufficient in spite of the continuous price-rise?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUMATI ORAON): (a) to (c) The information is being collected from the State Governments.

Third Wage Board's Report on Sugar Industry Workers

1305. SHRI N. E. BALARAM:
SHRI GURUDAS DAS DUPTA:
SHRI CHANDRIKA PRASAD TRIPATHI:
SHRI BEKAL UTSAHI:
DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Report of the Third Wage Board for sugar industry has been received by Government, if so, the details thereof;

(b) whether the representatives on Labour in the Board have disagreed with the major recommendations of the Board and given note of Dissent; if so, reason of the rejection of the report;

(c) whether the Sugar Industry workers all over the country observed one day protest strike on February 15, 1989;

(d) whether Government are aware of the widespread resentment of the workers against the report; and

(e) whether Government propose to discuss with the representatives of the National Sugar Workers Coordination Committee to resolve the issue of wage revision and other related matters?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF LABOUR AND THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS (SHRI RADHAKISHAN MALAVIYA): (a) to (e) Yes, Sir, the recommendations of the Wage Board relate to wage scales, Dearness Allowance, Retention Allowance, Housing and other benefits. Two members of the Board representing employees have given their Notes of Dissent. Some associations of sugar workers gave notices for strike on 15th February, 1989 against the recom-